

SPITSBERGEN

Svalbard

ENGLISH



Photo: Per Harald Olsen



Facts about Svalbard

Location	Group of islands between 74° - 81° N and 10° - 35° E.
Area	Approx. 63 000 sq.km.; approx. 60% covered by glacier
Largest islands	Spitsbergen, Nordaustlandet, Barentsøya, Edgeøya and Prins Karls Forland
Settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Longyearbyen (Norwegian administrative centre) approx. 1 800 inhabitants• Barentsburg (Russian mining community) approx. 800 inhabitants• Ny-Ålesund (Norw. international research centre) approx. 40-100 inhabitants• Sveagruva (Norwegian mining community) approx. 250 commuters• Hornsund (Polish research station) approx. 8 inhabitants
Administration	Norwegian sovereignty, regulated by the Svalbard Treaty of 1920
Transportation	By plane from/to Oslo and Tromsø, Norway There are no roads connecting the communities on Svalbard

Important dates

1194	"Svalbarði fundinn" noted in Icelandic texts
1596	Willem Barentsz discovers Svalbard
1600 – 1750	International whaling activities
1700 – 1800	Russian all-winter hunting and trapping
1800 – 1900	Norwegian all-winter hunting and trapping
1906	John M. Longyear establishes the first mine, naming the area Longyear City
1916	"Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani" takes over the mining activity in Longyearbyen
1920	The Svalbard Treaty is signed
1925	Norway is granted sovereignty over Svalbard
2002	Longyearbyen Community council is established

Weather conditions

Despite Svalbard being so close to the North Pole, the archipelago has a relatively mild climate compared to areas at the same latitude. In Longyearbyen, the average temperature ranges from -14°C during winter to +6°C during summer. The very lowest temperature was measured in March 1986 at -46.3°C, while the very highest temperature was measured in July 1979 at +21.3°C. It is not uncommon Svalbard to have long periods during winter with temperatures between -20 and -30 degrees; add to that a wind-chill factor that usually seriously compounds the cooling effect of the low temperatures. During summer it is common with periods of fog. In terms of precipitation, however, Svalbard may be described as an "Arctic desert" with annual rain- and snowfall at a mere 200-300 mm. The weather on Svalbard can shift very quickly and local variations are often considerable.

Plants and flowers

About 60% of Svalbard's land mass is covered with huge numbers of small and large glaciers. Only 6-7% of the land area is covered by any type of vegetation. The most fertile areas are found in the inner fjord regions of Spitsbergen. Permafrost covers the entire landmass of Svalbard, with only the top meter of earth thawing during summer. The flora is subject to a very short growing season, low temperatures, lack of precipitation and relatively barren ground soil. Nonetheless a number of small plants are able to survive in this hostile environment. In the area around Longyearbyen alone, more than 100 different species of plants have been registered, while in all of Svalbard there are around 170 species of plants. The flora is very fragile and everyone travelling on Svalbard must take great care to avoid causing any damage. Destruction of vegetation can leave permanent traces in the landscape.

Welcome to Svalbard

With its glaciers and wide river valleys, jutting peaks and nesting cliffs bustling with activity, Svalbard has a unique power to attract people from around the globe. There is also the mystical Northern Lights and the magical midnight sun, not to forget the long history of whaling, trapping, mining and famous feats of heroism in the name of science.

I wish you a warm welcome to experience the almost untouched wilderness here on Svalbard and to learn first-hand about the island group's exciting history – and many fascinating stories. But there is, however, something we demand of everyone visiting or travelling on any of the islands, and whether travelling on foot or by boat, dog-team, snowmobile, or any other means of transportation: you must treat the fragile Arctic nature, animals and the cultural and historical sites with the utmost care and respect, so that both locals and visitors in the future will also have the opportunity to experience Svalbard's unique Arctic environment.

Special rules have been laid down for travel on Svalbard. The objective of the rules is to protect nature, the cultural and historical sites and the traveller's own safety. Make sure you spend time learning these rules before you embark on your trip. The District Governor can provide more information in this regard. We also recommend that you stop by Svalbard Tourism, where you can get useful advice and tips so that your stay will be as enjoyable as possible, whether you choose to travel on your own or together with a tour operator.

I sincerely hope that your stay on Svalbard will provide you with memories for life. But remember one thing: you are only welcome here as long as you do not leave any traces from your visit behind when you leave.

Best regards

Odd Olsen Ingerø

Odd Olsen Ingerø
District Governor

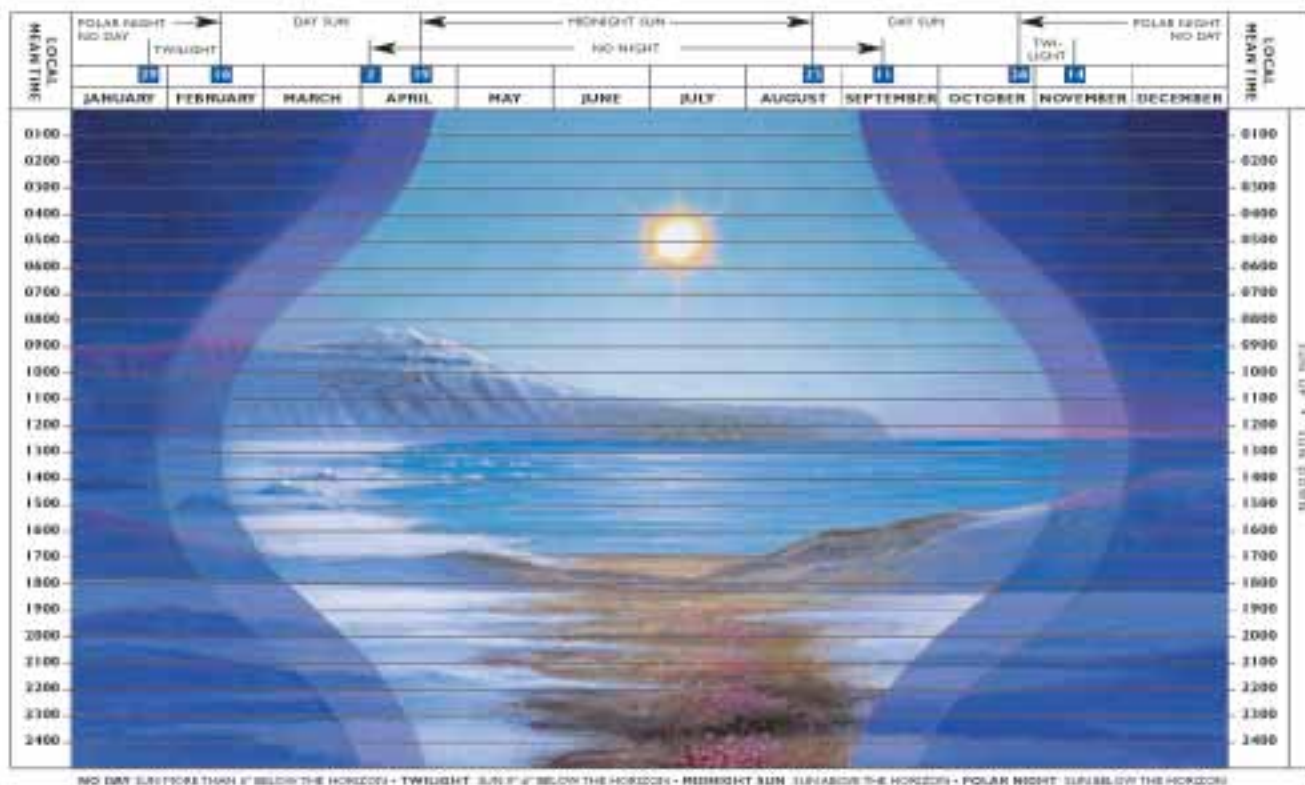


- Administrative Sector 10
- Plant sanctuary
- Nature reserves
- National parks
- Bird sanctuary

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avtalenr. 01/2004



SUN DIAGRAM FOR LONGYEARBYEN



Seasons

The periods of polar night and midnight sun vary depending on latitude. Longyearbyen enjoys the midnight sun from 19 April to 23 August, while in the period 26 October to 16 February; the sun never peaks over the horizon. The polar night, during which the sun stays more than 6 degrees below the horizon, lasts from 14 November to 29 January.

Autumn (September – October)

The landscape takes on autumn hues as orange and yellow creep their way across valleys and mountains and the topsoil slowly freezes. Temperatures sink down toward zero, the days become gradually shorter and suddenly one morning you awake to find that the sky has gently laid out a layer of white across the mountains. Walks at this time of year leave lasting memories. The frozen topsoil is easy to walk on, the air is pure and a reddish-orange evening sun is on display in all its glory.

Winter and polar nights

(November-February)

By the end of October, the sun has cast its final rays for the year over the landscape and Svalbard enters into a period of darkness. For more than two months, from the end of November to the beginning of February, there is darkness round the clock. Yet when the weather is good and the skies are clear, the moon reflects enough light to send rays dancing in the Arctic snow while the Northern Lights entertain – at times like these it may be more correct to refer to the polar night as "Arctic" lighted. The month of February is for many the most beautiful time of year. The polar night gives way to a rising sun, inching higher and higher for each passing day. On a clear day, the sky's many blue hues blend with a shade of pink – and finally the day comes when the first pink rays from the sun touch the mountain peaks. After starting at the top, it gradually makes its way down the valley. This is the time of year to experience a uniquely warm and intimate atmosphere found nowhere else on earth.

Light winter (March-May)

In step with the return of the light, the activity level and amount of energy expended by man and nature increases. Everyone wants out. March through May is an exciting time on Svalbard. The days become increasingly longer and by the end of April the midnight sun has returned to warm a wintry landscape. Migrating birds start returning and the mountainsides are filled with bustling life. The seals can be seen enjoying some heart-felt rays of sunshine on the fjord ice. At the base of spectacular blue-green glacier ridges there is room for reflection. This time of year is ideal for outdoor activities and wilderness adventures.

Summer (June-August)

The snow slowly melts, small flowers peek up from the wintry expanses and a rush of bird activity quickly replaces the earlier quiet of winter. This is summer on Svalbard. Mountains, valleys, glaciers, the sea, flowers, animals and birds all there for you to experience in a way you will not soon forget. The summer in the Arctic region is hectic. Even with daylight round-the-clock, you never feel that the days are long enough to do everything you would like to do.

Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen is the seat of local government and Norway's main administrative centre on Svalbard. The small colourful community of approx. 1 800 inhabitants has developed from being a typical mining community into a community with a number of businesses and industries and a wide range of cultural activities and opportunities. In general, the population of Longyearbyen is rather young, with many small children.

Leisure and cultural activities abound. Since there are no roads between the settlement areas on Svalbard, snowmobiles and boats are common means of transportation. Locals are very fond of outdoor activities, as well as taking weekend trips to cabins and huts.

The introduction of a local government on Svalbard has been a matter of current interest for a long time. Effective 2002, an extended form of local democracy was introduced in Longyearbyen based on a self-constructed model adjusted to the local conditions. Simultaneously, the responsibility for social services and government administration was transferred from the Norwegian government to the newly established politically elected body, Longyearbyen Community council.

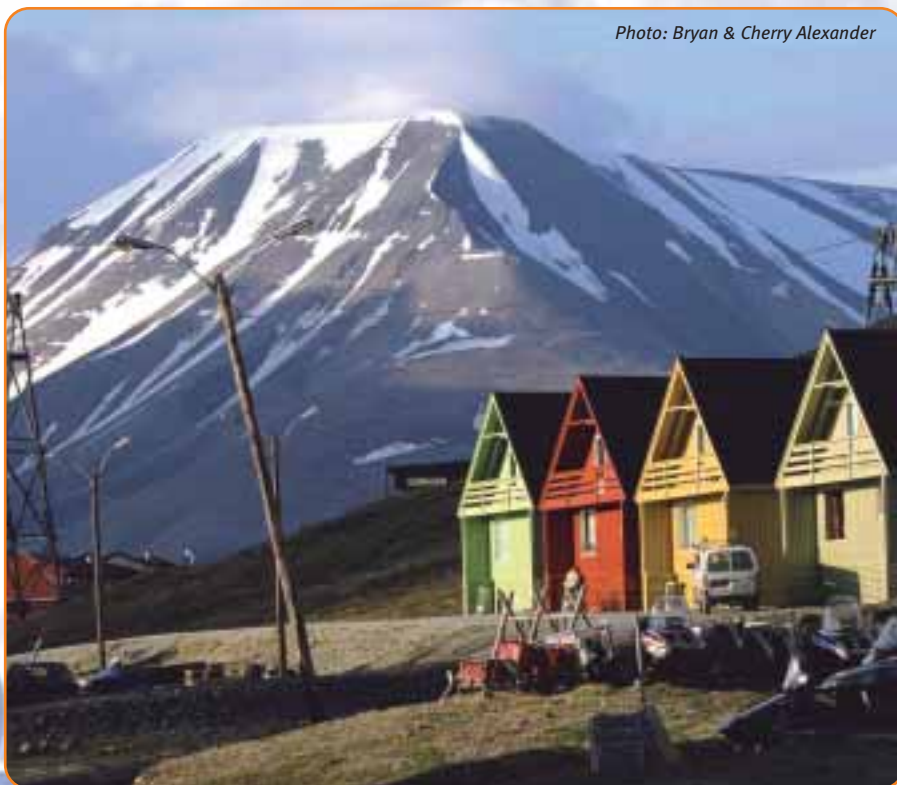


Photo: Torbjørn Johnsen



Photo: Bryan & Cherry Alexander

Photo: Bryan & Cherry Alexander



Culture and events

There are plenty of sports and cultural events in Longyearbyen. With its climbing wall, indoor shooting range, fitness centre, squash court and swimming pool with saunas, the sports hall serves as a gathering point for people of all ages. Lectures and talks on various topics are regularly organised, often at the university. Many famous musicians and artists visit Svalbard during the year and there are many exhibitions, concerts and other special events, particularly during weekends. Among the regularly scheduled annual events are the following:

Polar Jazz

4-5 days at the end of January with a number of musical events featuring jazz, blues and bluegrass.

Sunfest Week

An entire week around 8 March to celebrate the sun's return, featuring for example exhibitions, concerts, a revue, as well as various outdoor events.

Svalbard Ski Marathon

Cross-country ski marathon held at the end of April-beginning of May.

Spitsbergen Marathon

Marathon on foot held at the beginning of June.

Blues Festival

2-4 days at the end of October with musical events and concerts from the world of blues.

KunstPause Svalbard

A 3-5 days event with an emphasis on art and culture interacting with Nature's own works of art. The timing of the event coincides with the entry into the polar night period, which starts around 14 November.

Photo: Pierre Fijalkowski

Group arrangements

Svalbard is a very attractive travel destination for groups. Longyearbyen offers high standard accommodation, first-class restaurants, flexible meeting and conference facilities and exciting activities year-round. On Svalbard you can experience a new universe in the ice caves under the glaciers, you can strengthen employees' team spirit with a visit to a coal mine, you can enjoy the spectacular landscape by taking a trip led by dog-teams or by snowmobile, or you can visit our Russian and Ukrainian neighbours in Barentsburg. A tent tour deep in the polar night will definitely be an adventure to write home about, or just relax and enjoy a bit of wine tasting in the world's northernmost wine cellar. Activity providers in Longyearbyen tailor-makes programmes for groups for holiday, meetings, courses, conferences and incentive trips.

Photo: Priitta Pöyhti



Photo: Priitta Pöyhti



Places to visit

Gallery Svalbard

Gallery Svalbard displays a number of artworks made by Kåre Tveter featuring wonderful Svalbard motifs. Svalbard's resident artist Olaf Storø has a permanent sales exposition in the gallery. The gallery also houses a unique map and book collection; the Svalbard Collection. Thomas Widerberg has photographed and put together a collage of images on the topic "Arctic Light Over Svalbard". Occasionally the gallery organises temporary exhibitions and concerts. There is also an art centre at Gallery Svalbard where artists produce handicraft items as well as other artwork.

Svalbard Church

In addition to the regularly scheduled church services, Svalbard Church is used for a number of other activities. A large and cosy fireplace lounge in the church is open daily. A couple of evenings a week, you can stop by for a cup of coffee, delicious Norwegian waffles and daily newspapers. Both concerts and lectures are offered from time to time on the church premises. Svalbard Church also organises excursions featuring outdoor church services.

Svalbard Museum

In what used to be the pigsty in Longyearbyen, you will find the small,

but substantial Svalbard Museum. There you get an insight of all from the discovery of Svalbard, 17th century whaling history, expeditions, winter trapping techniques, the war on Svalbard, flora, fauna, and geology and not least of all mining history. As of the autumn of 2005, the museum will relocate to "Svalbardporten". In connection with the relocation, many objects will be transported back to Svalbard to be included in the museum expositions. There are also smaller museums in Barentsburg and in Ny-Ålesund.

Historical sites and monuments

All over the archipelago you will find a number of monuments and historical sites. More information about this can be found in brochures and literature. Please take the time to read about the special rules regarding the protection of historical sites on Svalbard (see section on Nature and Environmental Protection). Communication about conservation of Svalbard's cultural heritage is of vital importance. In collaboration with Svalbard Tourism, the Governor of Svalbard has prepared five brochures on the historical monuments, which describe the locations of historical monuments and sites on the archipelago. The brochures can be purchased at several places in Longyearbyen, for example at the Tourist Information Centre.

Photo: Synnøve Haga



Useful to know

Booking in advance

At times, the volume of tourists can be large, and we recommend that you book your lodgings and activities a long time in advance prior to your arrival on Svalbard.

Clothing

During the winter, use the warmest and best you have. Several layers of wool, as well as windproof outer garments, are important. However, if you are going snowmobiling, this will still not be enough. On organised snowmobile excursions, the necessary clothing and equipment is usually included. Snowmobile equipment can also be purchased or rented locally. During the summer, we recommend clothes appropriate for a typical autumn tour in the Norwegian mountains. Windproof outerwear and mittens/warm hats are recommended throughout the year. You should always bring extra warm clothes to be prepared for extreme weather conditions.

Equipment

If you would like to participate in an organised tour, you should ask the activity provider about what type of clothing and equipment you need.

Footwear

There is plenty of uneven terrain on Svalbard, and solid shoes and mountain boots are highly recommended. The large amounts of snow and ice melting during the summer cause rivers and streams to swell and large areas to become wetlands. Rubber boots are therefore very useful during this period. During the winter, it is important to wear as warm footwear as possible.

Foreign Exchange

Norwegian kroner may be used all over Svalbard, also at the Russian settlement. All major credit cards can be used for payment at most accommodation facilities, activity providers and shops. Many also have payment terminals. There is a cash machine (ATM) in Longyearbyen.

Going on a tour alone?

Familiarise yourself with the regulations for hiking and camping. The nature of Svalbard is powerful, and the weather conditions can change extremely fast. Wind, fog and drifting snow can cause you to suddenly lose your sense of direction. Always let someone know where you are going. Remember a map and compass, and bring an emergency beacon if you are going away on a long trip.

Indoor footwear

On Svalbard it is a tradition to take off your shoes when visiting someone's home, or upon entering accommodation sites, shops and offices. This tradition goes back to the days when the coal mines were located in the middle of the settlement. To avoid dragging coal dust into the houses, the locals would always take off their shoes. It is therefore smart to bring a pair of indoor shoes or warm socks when travelling to Svalbard.

Internal transport

There are no roads connecting the settlements on Svalbard. There are, however, approx. 50 km of road in and around Longyearbyen. During the summer, boats go to Barentsburg several times a week. There is an airport shuttle from Longyearbyen in connection with flight departures/arrivals, and several taxis are available in Longyearbyen.

Opening hours

Opening hours may vary from shop to shop and from season to season. We therefore recommend that you obtain a guide listing current opening hours when you arrive in Longyearbyen.

Passport

All of Svalbard is Norwegian territory, so there is no need for a passport/visa to visit the island or to visit the Russian settlement. Please note, however, that all non-Norwegian citizens must show their passport when returning to the Norwegian mainland.

Services

The number of services available in Longyearbyen is wide-ranging. Among these are the following: bakery, bank, bars, library, car rentals, camping, shops, hair stylists, art galleries, sports hall, accommodation facilities, cafes, cinema, church, museum, post office, travel agencies, restaurants, snowmobile rentals, pool, hospital, bicycle rental, dentist, taxi services, telephone services, tourist information centre, store selling wine and spirits and weapon rentals.

Shopping

Svalbard is not subject to customs and VAT regulations. This means that many goods are cheaper here than on the mainland of Norway. Other goods, for example, fruit, vegetables and fresh goods may be more expensive as a result of the higher freight costs. In Longyearbyen, there are small and large shops selling everything from groceries and fresh foods to sports and leisure equipment, gifts and souvenirs. Prices on tours and activities may seem relatively high for some, but in return you are assured a safe and secure high-quality experience.

Telephone/mobile

Since March 2004, Svalbard has been connected with the telephone network on the mainland via a fibre-optic cable. This guarantees high quality telephone coverage in Longyearbyen. There are also pay phones that accept phone-cards at the settlement sites. The country code on Svalbard is the same as that for Norway, +47. The GSM mobile phone network has been built in Longyearbyen, Barentsburg and Svea, which are the only areas providing GSM coverage.

Travel

The easiest way of getting to Svalbard is by airplane from Oslo or Tromsø. Flighttime from Oslo is approx. 3 hours, and from Tromsø approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes. The number of weekly flights vary on a seasonal basis.

Travelling in the wilderness

Notification and insurance

People travelling on their own outside of the settlements and the area around Nordenskiöld's Land – Dickson Land, must notify the Governor of Svalbard of their plans. For safety reasons, we recommend that no matter where or how long you intend to be away, you tell someone about it. The Governor can compel visitors to purchase insurance or provide a bank guarantee to cover expenses in the event there is a need for a rescue operation

Polar Bears

Polar bears are completely protected on Svalbard, and it is prohibited to beckon, pursue or in any other active manner attempt to make contact with a polar bear, as this may disturb it and jeopardise the safety of humans or polar bears. Keep a safe distance from any bears you may come across, as they are very quick and are known to attack suddenly and without warning. Use caution and avoid all contact. Always set out tripwire warning flares around campsites. Polar bears will quickly overheat if they are being chased, so you must never follow a polar bear on a snowmobile or by

boat. Never feed a polar bear. At campsites, all food, garbage and toilet waste must be kept at least 100 m from your sleeping tents and in a way so that it can be seen from the tent opening.

Weapons

Polar bears are essentially everywhere on Svalbard – all year round. We therefore recommend that you carry a weapon with you on all trips outside of the settlements. Large-bore rifles are absolutely the best defence against polar bears. Weapons may be rented locally. Visitors with weapon training and/or a hunter's licence should bring documentation thereof. *If you do not have weapon training, you should participate on organised tours with local guides.* In addition, you should carry shocking devices such as signal pistols or signal pens with flash cracks, firecrackers, gunfire or sirens. If you are to spend the night in a tent or under the open sky, the campsite should be secured with tripwire warning flares.

Rivers

There are tremendous amounts of water in the rivers from June to August. They grow fast as a result of precipitation and the melting snow. The rivers are often wide, icy cold and difficult to cross on foot.

Pack ice and glaciers

Travelling on pack ice and glaciers involves risks. Watch out for brash of ice, holes and cracks in the glacier. Gather information about the local conditions and conduct thorough measuring and evaluations of the ice before you head out. Do not venture out on a glacier alone without experience. When moving on a glacier, go with a guide or at least go in a group so that all the participants are connected by a safety rope. Remember to bring crampons (ice spurs) and an ice axe.

For your own security and for a more enriching experience, we recommend tours with guides familiar with the local environment.



Photo: Per Harald Olsen



Photo: Trym Ivar Bergsno



Photo: Jon Vold



Photo: Reidar Hindrum

Birds and animals

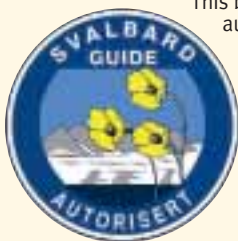
With populations up to several hundred thousand birds, some of the largest concentrations of birds in the North Atlantic region can be found on Svalbard. Among the birds dominating the bird rocks are the little auk, the kittiwake and the fulmar. All along the coast of Svalbard, as well as across the tundra in the large valleys, there are large populations of geese and wading birds. The eider duck nests on all the islands of Svalbard. Most of the birds on Svalbard are migratory, spending the winter in the Barents Sea, along the coast of Norway or on the continent. In all, around 30 bird species nest on Svalbard. The Svalbard ptarmigan is the only bird species that stays on Svalbard throughout the winter.

The Svalbard reindeer and Arctic fox also call Svalbard their home, and are found on most of the islands. A species of mouse called sibling vole has found its way to the Isfjord area, most likely as stowaways on boats.

The polar bear is considered a marine mammal as it spends most of its life on the drifting pack ice. A large number, however, can be found on the islands east of Spitsbergen, yet you should be prepared to encounter polar bears wherever you are on Svalbard. The bears give birth to their cubs in snow caves, which they dig on land. Their diet consists primarily of seal meat. In addition to the most common seal species, the ringed seal, there are several other species of seal around Svalbard, including the bearded seal, the common harbour seal and the walrus. The white whale is the most common whale species frequenting the coast of Svalbard.

The rich nutrients found in the Barents Sea are the key source of sustenance for most animals living on Svalbard. It is the Gulf Stream bringing a potent mix of warm and cold water, relatively shallow waters and round-the-clock sunshine that allows this polar ocean region to be so tremendously productive during the summer.

Photo: Synnøve Haga



This badge is worn only by authorized Svalbard Guides. To become an authorized Svalbard Guide one must have substantial of practical field experience, and one must have successfully completed the official Guide and Tour Leader Courses of Svalbard. Authorization is given in five categories: "Longyearbyen" – for those having completed the basic guide course and who have tour leader experience from the settlement itself; "Summer Field Guide" and "Summer Day-trip Guide" – for those having completed the summer field course and who have tour leader experience from summer field or day-trip expeditions; and "Winter Field Guide" and "Winter Day-trip Guide" – for those having completed the winter field course and who have tour leader experience from winter field or day-trip expeditions.

Photo: Erlend Folstad



Photo: Jens Abild

Nature and environmental concerns

Flora and fauna on Svalbard have adapted to the difficult Arctic conditions, but the nature is still very fragile, and even minor encroachments can cause lasting damage. This is why special environmental regulations have been developed for Svalbard. The purpose of the Environmental Act of Svalbard and its appurtenant regulations is among others to ensure the protection of Svalbard's vulnerable natural environment and its many valuable historical monuments. The most relevant laws and regulations include:

- The Act on Environmental Protection on Svalbard, 2001 (the Svalbard Environmental Act)
- The Regulation regarding Traffic with Motorised Vehicles in the Terrain and regarding Use of Aircrafts for Tourism Purposes, 2002 (the Motorised Traffic Regulation)
- The Regulation regarding Camping, 2001 (the Camping Regulation)
- The Regulation regarding Tourism and other Travel Related Activities on Svalbard, 1991 (the Tourist Regulation)
- Regulations regarding the various protected areas on Svalbard
- The Regulation regarding Local Regulation of Hunting of Svalbard Grouse and Svalbard Reindeer on Svalbard, 2003
- The Regulation regarding Harvesting on Svalbard, 2002 (the Harvesting Regulation)
- The Regulation regarding Environmental Poisons, Waste and Fees for Discharge and Waste on Svalbard, 2002 (the Pollution Regulation)

Protected areas

Close to 65% of the surface of Svalbard consists of protected areas, including 3 nature reserves, 6 national parks, 15 bird sanctuaries and 1 geotopical protected area. The nature of the regulations for these areas vary to some extent, and are somewhat stricter than the regulations in the Svalbard Environmental Act, which apply to the entire archipelago.

Flora

All vegetation in the designated sanctuaries is protected. By all means take plenty of pictures of Svalbard's colourful flora, but under no circumstances should you pick or destroy any of them.



Photo: B&C Alexander



Photo: Priitta Pöyhtäri





Photo: Pierre Fijalkowski



Photo: Fausto Giaccone



Photo: Gunhild Geirsta

Animals and birds

are specially adapted to the challenging Arctic living conditions. All animals on Svalbard are protected. Hunting, trapping, injuring, killing or in any way disturbing protected animals, including birds, is strictly prohibited. Also eggs, nests and dens are protected. Never touch a dead animal, as rabies has been detected in on Svalbard. All birds are protected during the nesting season, and you must not disturb them unnecessarily, for example, by climbing in nesting areas. Nor may you collect eggs or down without a special permit.

Historical sites

The Svalbard Environmental Act establishes that all traces of human activity dating back to 1945 or earlier are protected. This applies both to fixed sites such as old building foundations, graves, standing buildings and any other type of fixed facility, as well as any movable historical artefacts. The following are also protected regardless of age:

- human graves or indicators of gravesites such as crosses and bones from humans lying in areas outside their original burial sites
- skeletal remains at slaughtering sites for walrus and other animals, and in connection with polar bear traps

The protection of fixed historical sites includes an area encompassing 100 metres in every direction from the site. Within this protected area it is not permitted to pitch camp, erect tents or burn fires on ground covered by vegetation.

The regulation concerning the cultural heritage on Svalbard specifies:

- protected historical artefacts must not be removed from the place where they are found; if there is reason to believe that the site is not previously known, then the Governor of Svalbard shall be notified.
- protected historical artefacts may not be removed from Svalbard

Tourism and travel

All visits to Svalbard are subject to strict regulations regarding the protection of nature and historical sites, as well as ensuring the safety of the visitors. Strict rules apply to tour operators, tour organisers and tourist vessels, for example, that tour organisers are fully responsible for their customers' safety. Organisers are also responsible for ensuring that travellers are informed about all relevant rules and regulations. Tour organisers must inform the Governor of Svalbard of all tour plans well ahead of the season, as well as present proof of insurance to cover any search and rescue operations should the need arise.

If you are going out for a trip alone and plan to go beyond Administrative Sector 10 (the central parts of Spitsbergen), you must report your planned trip to the Governor of Svalbard. The obligation to report applies to all trips both on land and on sea, and are to be made on specific forms. Make sure you contact the Governor of Svalbard time in advance. You will also be required to take out a search and rescue insurance or provide a guarantee for the same in connection with such a trip.

The environmental protection legislation contains certain restrictions for traffic within Svalbard. Among other things, the use of motorised vehicles on bare grounds is prohibited, and the use of scooters is only permitted in certain areas. All traffic in the bird sanctuaries and in some other protected areas is regulated or prohibited. Special rules apply to camping. Please familiarise yourself with the environmental legislation of Svalbard, especially prior to setting out on a trip by yourself.

Svalbard is an Arctic pearl. Nature, landscape and historical sites must be preserved and protected by everyone. With this in mind, we encourage all visitors to

"TAKE CARE OF SVALBARD".



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***It is impossible being
an invisible tourist,
but we do appreciate
your trying***

COMMON SENSE RULES FOR SVALBARD

- Don't be an arctic litterbug! Leave no lasting signs of your visit.
- Birds and other animals are not to be disturbed. Remember, you are the guest.
- Help take care of the biodiversity. Do not pick flowers.
- Leave old cultural remains alone. Law protects all traces of humans from before 1946.
- Pursuing, attracting or enticing polar bears is strictly prohibited. They are dangerous animals, but also vulnerable.
- Do not leave the settlements without a suitable gun, and experience in using it.
- Be considerate of others.
- Contact the Governor's office (Sysselmannen) if planning a longer field excursion. A mandatory registration applies for travel to large parts of Svalbard.
- Acquaint yourself with the rules and regulations pertaining to travel and other tourist activities on Svalbard.
- For the sake of both the environment and yourself, we recommend organized tour arrangements.

